Impact Assessment of CSR Project for Installation of RO Units in Government / Government Aided Schools of Ferozepur District, Punjab

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Executive Summary

The Punjab Government has recognized the importance of providing safe drinking water to students in government schools. To ensure this, water testing was conducted in 847 schools across the Ferozepur district. Unfortunately, the results revealed that 646 government schools and 52 government-aided schools had non-potable water, which contained harmful contaminants exceeding BIS norms. This situation was alarming as it posed serious health risks to the students and staff, with high levels of arsenic, fluoride, iron, nitrate, and hard metals. Immediate action was necessary to address this critical issue. To tackle the problem, the District Magistrate of Ferozepur approached PFC to install RO Units (water purifiers) in the affected schools, which included 646 government schools and 52 government-aided schools. This measure ensured that all students have access to clean and safe drinking water in the schools. The main objective of the project is to provide availability of safe and potable water to the school students and teachers in Government/ Government aided schools by installation of RO units.

Outcomes

The government schools in Ferozepur district have witnessed a significant rise in the accessibility of portable and safe drinking water. The installation of RO drinking water plants in government schools of Ferozepur district has resulted in a notable enhancement in the health of schoolchildren.

Observations

The following are the overall observation:

- The project created awareness about the water borne diseases and other health problems and emphasized about the importance of potable drinking water among schoolchildren, resulting in improved children's academic achievements and good health.
- Awareness sessions were conducted on better drinking water and sanitation practices among schoolchildren in all 646 government schools and 52 government-aided schools where PFC installed RO water plants across the Ferozepur district, resulting in increase in students' drinking water consumption levels and better sanitation practices.
- High costs are associated with regular maintenance and operation of RO water plants as schools have budget constraints. Yet, schools are allocating substantial amount for undertaking regular maintenance of the units.
- RO drinking water is being utilized for mid-day meals preparation in all most all schools where PFC installed RO water plants in Ferozepur district.
- The school administration is providing cleanliness and tidiness of the surrounding areas of RO water plant locations in every school.

CHAPTER 1
Introduction to Corporate Social Responsibility

Introduction

According to the UNIDO[1] , Corporate social responsibility is a management concept whereby companies integrate social and environmental concerns in their business operations and interactions with their stakeholders. CSR is generally understood as being the way through which a company achieves a balance of economic, environmental and social imperatives (Triple-Bottom-Line Approach) while at the same time addressing the expectations of shareholders and stakeholders. In this sense, it is important to distinguish CSR, which can be a strategic business management concept, and charity, sponsorships or philanthropy. Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is one of the most central concepts in the literature and, indicates the positive impacts of businesses on their stakeholders. However, despite the growing literature on this concept, the measurement of CSR is still problematic. Although the literature provides several methods for measuring corporate social activities, almost all have some limitations.

CSR in India: The Present Scenario

The CSR provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 seek to create an enabling environment by promoting and facilitating far better connections between businesses and communities. It aims at facilitating deeper thought and long-term strategies for addressing some of our most persistent social, economic, and environmental problems; they will assist in synergizing partnerships between corporate, governments, CSOs (civil society organizations), academic institutions and social entrepreneurs. Business resources can be channelled into various programmes to address social, economic, and environmental problems and bring about a sustainable future for all. The latest Companies Act, 2013, reflects the importance of CSR as part of a firm's business strategy. Section 135 contains five sub-sections on CSR. Schedule VII of the Companies Bill lists out the CSR activities. Section 135 (5) CSR expenditure states that the board of every company referred to in sub-section (1) shall ensure that the company spends, in every financial year, at least two per cent of the average net profits of the company made during the three immediately preceding financial years, in pursuance of its CSR policy:

> *Provided further that if the company fails to spend such amount, the board shall, in its report made under clause (o) of sub-section (3) of section 134, specify the reasons for not spending the amount.*

The various initiatives studied in each of the thrust areas of CSR are:

- Initiatives under education: maintaining school, infrastructure support, quality of education, scholarship, adult education, girl child education.

1 https://www.unido.org/our-focus/advancing-economic-competitiveness/competitive-trade-capacities-and-corporate-responsibility/corporate-social-responsibility-market-integration

- Initiatives under health: infrastructure and equipment support, water and sanitation, senior care, maternal and child health and health camps.
- Initiatives under livelihood: skill development and income generation.
- Initiatives under environment: green initiatives, water management, water conservation.
- Initiatives under rural development: support for differently able, awareness generation, rehabilitation initiatives, infrastructure, and youth clubs.

Figure 1.1: CSR Areas

New Amendments in CSR

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs vide Notification No. G.S.R. 40(E), dated 22 January 2021, issued the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Amendment Rules, 2021. After 22 January 2021, the governments cleared their intention on CSR policy that do for society or is ready to pay the fine along with CSR amount. The whole concept of CSR provisions shifted from 'Give the explanations for not spending the CSR and now do the CSR activities' to 'Pay the fine for not spending the CSR and transfer the fund into National fund'. Basically, in this CSR Companies (CSR Policy) Amendment Rules, 2021, many changes came into effect such as:

- Change in the definition of CSR.
- Shifting from direction to mandatory CSR obligation
- Mandatorily Registration of CSR Agency / NGO/ Trust
- Change in board responsibilities.
- Analysis of Impact on Society by Impact Assessment
- Introduction of 'Ongoing Project'
- Comment on Spent & Unspent CSR fund by the statutory auditor.

After seeing these amended provisions of CSR, corporates have taken special care that donating to an agency / NGO / Trust will not fulfil CSR obligation. It is the responsibility of the board to comply with all the provisions under these rules.

About Power Finance Corporation and its CSR and Sustainability Policy

PFC is a Maharatna company incorporated on July 16th, 1986. PFC is a leading Non-Banking Financial Corporation in the Country which plays a crucial role in the rise of India as a global player. PFC is rated as 'AAA' by Domestic Rating Agencies such as CRISIL, ICRA & CARE.

CSR and Sustainability Policy of PFC

- Ensure an increased level of commitment at all levels in the organisation to operate its business in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner while recognizing the interests of its stakeholders.
- Generate a societal goodwill for PFC through CSR activities and help reinforce a positive & socially responsible image of PFC as a corporate.

CSR Thrust Areas

 Ensuring environmental sustainability measures	 Sanitation & Provision of Safe drinking water
 Promoting Education and Employment enhancing vocational skills	 Activities related to supporting differently abled person
Activities related to health sector 	**Others**  Swachh Bharat Kosh  Clean Ganga Fund  PM Cares Fund

CSR and Sustainability Development Committee

The following Committee approves and recommends the projects to be undertaken by the company in CSR and SD. The committee comprises of the following members:

- Independent Director – Chairman
- Independent Director – Member
- Director (Finance) – Member
- Director (Projects) – Member
- Director (Commercial) - Member

CHAPTER 2
Scope, Methodology and Design

The study is of descriptive in nature. A descriptive study essentially reviews whether the project has been operating as planned, scheduled and determines whether the project has achieved desired objectives, and finally analyses the outcome of the project.

Objectives and Method of Study

The major objective of the project is to make available safe and potable water to the school students and teachers in Government/Government aided schools by installation of RO units.

To achieve the above objectives the impact assessment criteria adopted is that of the OECD – Development Assistance Committee(DAC) Framework. The projects impact is assessed with the help of the six parameters.

Scope of Work

As per the provisions of Rule 8 (3) (a) of the amended Companies (CSR Policy) Rules, impact assessment of CSR projects has to be undertaken by companies. The scope of the study covers the following:

- Impact assessment of the CSR project
- Case studies from the initiatives
- Short videos and geo-tagged photographs for the projects

The following is the impact matrix that has been drawn from the framework

Very Low	Low	Moderate	High	Very High
<50%	50% – 59%	60%-69%	70%-79%	≥80%

Sample

Random sampling method is used for the selection of random subset of people from a larger group or population. In this method, each member of the group has an equal chance of getting selected. The method is commonly used in statistics to obtain a sample that is representative of the larger population.

Stakeholders' Details

The total number of schools were selected for installation of RO systems (water purifier) in Ferozepur: 698. The IPE team surveyed schools Number: 2% (14 schools).

List of 14 schools with sample in one column and percentage in another column

S. No.	Name of the School	Total Strength	Sample Size	Percentage
1	GPS Suba Jadid	19	19	100%
2	GPS Lalchian	70	20	29%
3	GPS Sharin Wala Saida	55	20	36%
4	GPS Mokham Khan Wala	59	20	34%
5	GPS Pir Ahmed Khan	57	20	35%
6	GPS Sarhali	82	20	24%
7	Govt Sr Sec School Jeevan Mall	1030	20	2%
8	Govt Girls Sr. Sec School SGRM Zira	2081	20	1%
9	Govt Sr Sec School Behak Gujjran Zira	500	20	4%
10	GMS Patel Nagar	39	20	51%
11	GPS Bhadarwala	42	20	48%
12	GPS Suba Kadim	48	20	42%
13	GPS Pir Khan Sheikh	35	20	57%
14	GPS Bhangali Nariangarh	102	20	20%

Stakeholders' Details

S. No.	Type of the Stakeholder	Total Number of Stakeholders
1	Headmaster / Headmistress	14
2	Teachers	28
3	Students	279
4	SMC Committee Members	31
5	Grampanchayat Members	04
6	Parents	36

Outputs and Deliverables

The outcome of the study are as follows:

- To analyse the relevance, efficiency, and effectiveness of the project
- To provide information regarding impact assessment of the project and understand the stakeholder's perception about the project.

As a deliverable of the project, a well-structured, well-documented impact assessment report with all relevant analysis, photographs, and short videos.

CHAPTER 3

Impact Assessment of CSR Project for installation of RO units in Government / Government aided Schools of Ferozepur District, Punjab

Name of the Project	Impact Assessment of CSR Project for installation of RO units in Government / Government aided Schools of Ferozepur District, Punjab
Project Start and End Date	28.03.2019 and 26.03.2021
Project Cost	Rs 6.76 Crores
CSR Schedule VII Item	Item number 1 and 2
SDG Goal	

About the Project

Accessing clean and safe drinking water posed a considerable challenge for children attending government schools in the Ferozepur district. They were forced to consume water from unreliable sources such as hand pumps or bore well pipes, which often contained high levels of contaminants. This resulted in various health issues, including waterborne diseases, nausea, skin rash, vomiting, and dizziness etc., adversely impacting the well-being and academic performance of the students. Power Finance Corporation tackled the problem of unhygienic drinking water in Government Schools of Ferozepur district as part of its Aspirational district project, which was identified by NITI Aayog, the Government of India. Within the framework of the Aspirational district program, specific projects were identified by the District Magistrate-Ferozepur in the Education and Health sectors. One of these projects entailed the installation of RO water plants in 646 selected government schools and 52 Government aided schools across the Ferozepur district. Consequently, approximately 140000 children have reaped the benefits of this program, gaining access to clean drinking water in government schools situated in the Ferozepur district of Punjab state. This project was initiated on 28.03.2019 and successfully completed by 26.03.2021.

Need for the Project

The Punjab Government has recognized the importance of providing safe drinking water to students in government schools. To ensure this, water testing was conducted in 847 schools across the Ferozepur district. Unfortunately, the results revealed that 646 government schools and

52 government-aided schools had non-potable water, which contained harmful contaminants exceeding BIS norms. This situation was alarming as it posed serious health risks to the students and staff, with high levels of arsenic, fluoride, iron, nitrate, and hard metals. Immediate action was necessary to address this critical issue. To tackle the problem, the District Magistrate of Ferozepur took the initiative under its PFC's aspirational district program to install RO Units (water purifiers) in the affected schools, which included 646 government schools and 52 government-aided schools. This measure ensured that all students have access to clean and safe drinking water in the schools.

PFC Initiation

PFC has identified the need for providing safe drinking water to the schools in aspirational district of Firozpur and have installed RO units in the schools with a cost of Rs 6.76 crore in the year 2019. The project got delayed due to COVID-19 and was successfully completed in 2021. PFC installed 704 RO plants in 646 schools and 52 government aided schools covering six blocks and 689 villages in Firozpur district. The project was executed in close coordination with the District Educational Officer, Ferozepur. The project aimed to install RO water plants in selected government schools within Ferozepur district to provide portable drinking water to schoolchildren and also to create awareness among schoolchildren about clean drinking water.

Project Details

Project cost: Rs. 6.76 crores

Start date: 28.03.2019.

End date: 26.03.2021.

Capacity of the RO Unit and Installed units in School			
30 LPH	60 LPH	120 LPH	250 LPH
237 schools	333 schools	62 schools	66 schools
237 units	333 units	62 units	72 units

The two models of units were installed in the schools. The first one with 30 LPH and 60 LPH was directly connected to the water source and was connected to an outlet. While the other two LPH models(120 LPH & 250 LPH)were installed in Senior secondary schools. The water from borewell / local tap connection was used to fill the water tank and later the water was processed through the RO unit and the filtered water was stored in a separate tank. The tank was connected to taps for easy access to children.

PFC installed RO plants at various Government schools in Ferozepur District

Impact Assessment

The impact assessment is conducted to study the relevance, effectiveness and outcomes of the project. The RO water plant installed by PFC has achieved the required outcomes by providing safe and clean drinking water to students in various schools in Ferozpur. The team selected 14 schools and observed that all the installed RO water plants are in working condition. The schools are taking care of maintenance of the plants from internal resources. The table depicts the working condition of the plant and the number of students who are benefited in the schools.

S. No.	Name of the School	RO water plant (Water purifier) capacity in LPH	Total Beneficiaries	Status
1	Govt Primary School Sharin Wala Saida Guruharshai-1	30	55 (Boys: 30 and Girls: 25)	Working
2	GPS Bhadarwala Ferozepur -2	30	42 (Boys: 22 and Girls 20)	Working
3	Govt Primary School Suba Jadid Ferozepur – 3	60	19 (Boys: 10 and Girls: 09)	Working
4	Govt Primary School Lalchian Guruharshai-2	60	70 (Boys: 48 and Girls: 22)	Working
5	Govt Primary School Mokham Khan Wala Ghall Khurd-1	60	59 (Boys: 27 and Girls: 32)	Working
6	Govt Primary School Pir Ahmed Khan Ghall Khurd-1	60	57 (Boys: 28 and Girls: 29)	Working
7	Govt Primary School Sarhali Zira -1	60	82 (Boys: 39 and Girls: 43)	Working
8	GMS Patel Nagar, Ferozpur-1	60	39 (21 Boys and 18 Girls)	Working
9	GPS Suba Kadim, Ferozepur -3	60	48 (Boys: 24 and Girls: 24)	Working
10	GPS Pir Khan Sheikh, Ferozepur -4	60	35 (Boys: 14 and Girls: 21)	Working
11	GPS Bhangali Nariangarh, Ghjall Khurd-2	60	102 (Boys: 58 and Girls: 44)	Working
12	Govt Sr Sec School Jeevan Mall - Zira -2	250	1030 (Boys: 1030 and Girls: 0)	Working
13	Shahid Gurdas Ram Memorial Govt Girls Sr. Sec School Zira-2	250	2081 (Boys: 161 and Girls: 1920)	Working
14	Govt Sr Sec School Behak Gujjran Zira-3	250	500 (Boys: 288 and Girls: 212)	Working

Relevance: The PFC's initiative to install RO units in Government/Government aided Schools of Ferozepur District, Punjab, is in accordance with CSR Schedule VII item (i) aimed at enhancing safe drinking water facilities in Government Schools. Ferozepur being an aspirational district, the project endeavors to promotes clean, hygienic, safe drinking water in government schools but also contributed to the enhancement of the quality of drinking water facilities resulting in improving healthcare and education standards among the young children. Furthermore, this project is in alignment with the New Education Policy 2020 and Jal Jeevan Mission, both of which advocate for safe drinking water practices in government schools. Additionally, it complies with the RTE Act 2009, which mandates the provision of school infrastructure, including drinking water facilities and toilets, in adherence to the prescribed norms.

Efficiency: The completion of the project was achieved within the designated timeframe and allocated budget, ensuring its successful installation of 704 RO water plants in selected 698 government and government-aided schools of Ferozepur district in Punjab. The schools' diligent maintenance of these plants ensures a continuous supply of clean water for the students' hydration needs and for preparing mid-day meals, contributing to their health and well-being. As part of the study, the team visited 14 schools to study and evaluate the functionality of the installed RO water plants. During these visits, it was observed that all 14 plants had varying capacities of 30, 60, and 250 litres per hour. It is noteworthy that all these plants are being properly utilized and were found in working condition as they were well managed and maintained by the schoolchildren to meet their daily water requirements of the students, teachers and staff.

Effectiveness: The successful implementation of the project involved a meticulous process of installing 704 RO units across various schools in Ferozepur district. Based on the strength of the school, the capacities ranging from 30 to 250 Litres per hour RO units were installed. This comprehensive approach ensured that the project's objectives were met effectively. As a result of this initiative, more than 1,40,000 students in 646 government schools and 52 government aided schools now have access to clean drinking water. This significant achievement has had a profound effect on the lives of these students and the overall school community. One of the key benefits of this project is the improved water consumption levels among the students. With access to clean drinking water, students are now able to stay hydrated throughout the day, which has a positive result on their overall health and well-being. This has also translated into improved concentration levels and academic performance among the students.

Coherence: The intervention is compatible with other activities in a country's national policies of Jal Jeevan Mission, RTE and the National Education Policy 2020.

1. Jal Jeevan Mission Har Ghar Jal Jal Jeevan Mission	Tap water supply in government schools
2. New Education Policy 2020	In accordance with the New Education Policy 2020, it is imperative that all schools have access to clean drinking water, functioning toilets, and pleasant classroom spaces.

Impact: The installation of RO plants has had a significant impact on reducing illnesses among students. Previously, many students were falling ill due to the consumption of unsafe drinking water. However, with the provision of clean water, the number of waterborne diseases has decreased significantly, leading to a healthier school environment, improved attendance rates, and the availability of sustainable safe drinking water facilities. It is evident from the interactions with the school management and parents of the students that students are healthy and are active than before. Most of the students bring unfilled water bottles to schools and on arrival they fill the water from the RO tap and use it throughout the day. School administrators also take enough care on operation and maintenance of the system.

This initiative of the PFC in collaborating with District administration and the school management has not only provided clean, hygiene, safe drinking water but also created awareness among

stakeholders on the disadvantages of various waterborne diseases and the risks associated with unsafe drinking water. Through educational programs and awareness campaigns, students, teachers, and the wider community have been educated about the importance of clean drinking water and the measures they can take to ensure its safety. This heightened awareness has empowered individuals to make informed choices regarding their water consumption habits and has fostered a culture of health and hygiene within the schools. The project has impacted the lives of the students and community at large. Access to clean drinking water has not only improved their health and well-being This initiative served as a shining example of how targeted interventions can bring about positive change and create a healthier future for generations to come.

Sustainability: The schools' ability to properly maintain and operate their RO water plants is vital for the success of the project. Without regular maintenance and operation, the RO plants may not function optimally, leading to a decrease in water quality and potentially rendering the plants ineffective. One of the key tasks in maintaining the RO water plants is replacing filters and RO water membranes. These components play a crucial role in removing impurities and ensuring the water produced is safe for consumption. Schools take enough care on regular maintenance, testing of water quality, replacement of various parts, cleaning of the overhead tanks, etc due to which the project has become sustainable.

Project Outcomes

The government schools in Ferozepur district have witnessed a significant rise in the accessibility of portable and safe drinking water. The installation of RO drinking water plants in government schools of Ferozepur district has resulted in a notable enhancement in the health of schoolchildren.

Infrastructure Details	Beneficiary Schools	Total Number of RO Units were Installed
30 LPH RO water plants	237	237
60 LPH RO water plants	333	333
120 LPH RO water plants	62	62
250 LPH RO water plants	66	72

Before Project	After Project implementation
• Schools in Ferozepur relied mostly on borewell water as their primary source of drinking water. • It was revealed that water contained. high levels of arsenic, fluoride, iron, nitrate, and hard metals substances that exceeded BIS norms. • The water contamination resulted in health risk among school students and staff. • The water had an unpleasant odor and appeared grey or blackish in color. • Students were bringing water from home, and this was not sufficient for daily consumption when they were in school	• To overcome the problem, PFC has funded the project by installing RO water units in 698 schools. • After the implementation of the project, the students have safe and clean drinking water. • It is noticed that there is significant improvement in their health and well-being. • This also enhanced knowledge and awareness about the significance of safe water consumption. • Students do not bring water from home and have increased consumption of water. • The project had positive changes and created a healthier future for future generations. • The project had high impact and the project is sustainable

Impact Matrix

The project's overall impact is analyzed by studying its relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, coherence, impact, and sustainability.

Impact (Rating)	1 (Very low)	2 (Low)	3 (Moderate)	4 (High)	5 (Very high)
Relevance					
Efficiency					
Effectiveness					
Coherence					
Impact					
Sustainability					

Data Analysis

The main objective of the data collection was to gain insights into the project directly from the beneficiaries of the program. The primary stakeholders of the program were predominantly the students at the schools. However, to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the program, a select number of concerned teachers and parents were also consulted to provide an overview. Furthermore, the study gathered data from SMC committee members and Grampanchay at members. It is important to note that the schools for data collection were chosen through random sampling to ensure impartiality and eliminate any biases or prejudices. The students were primarily surveyed using a questionnaire designed to assess the benefits they experienced because of the installation of water purifiers, including the reduction in water-borne diseases. Similarly, teachers and parents were interviewed in person and through virtual means, respectively, to gauge the impact of improved access to safe drinking water on the students.

PFC installed RO water plant at Government Senior Secondary School – Jeevan Mall

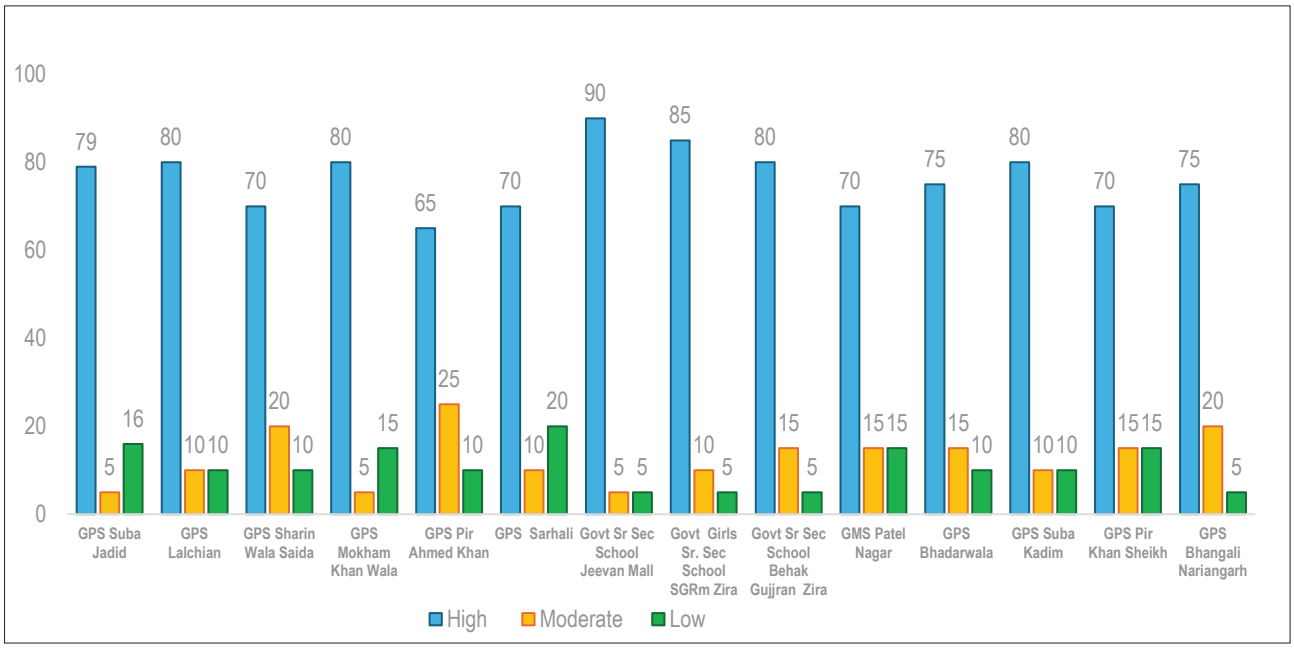
Students' Satisfaction Level Survey

Total number of schools were surveyed: 14; Surveyed Student Age Group: 6 to 15 years. School wise details and sample details are given below.

S. No.	Name of the School	Sample
1	GPS Suba Jadid	19 (Boys: 10 and Girls: 09)
2	GPS Lalchian	20 (Boys: 10 and Girls:10)
3	GPS Sharin Wala Saida	20 (Boys: 10 and Girls:10)
4	GPS Mokham Khan Wala	20 (Boys: 10 and Girls:10)
5	GPS Pir Ahmed Khan	20 (Boys: 10 and Girls:10)
6	GPS Sarhali	20 (Boys: 10 and Girls:10)
7	Govt Sr Sec School Jeevan Mall	20 (Boys: 10 and Girls:10)
8	Govt Girls Sr. Sec School SGRM Zira	20 (Boys: 10 and Girls:10)
9	Govt Sr Sec School Behak Gujjran Zira	20 (Boys: 10 and Girls:10)
10	GMS Patel Nagar	20 (Boys: 10 and Girls:10)
11	GPS Bhadarwala	20 (Boys: 10 and Girls:10)
12	GPS Suba Kadim	20 (Boys: 10 and Girls:10)
13	GPS Pir Khan Sheikh	20 (Boys: 10 and Girls:10)
14	GPS Bhangali Nariangarh	20 (Boys: 10 and Girls:10)

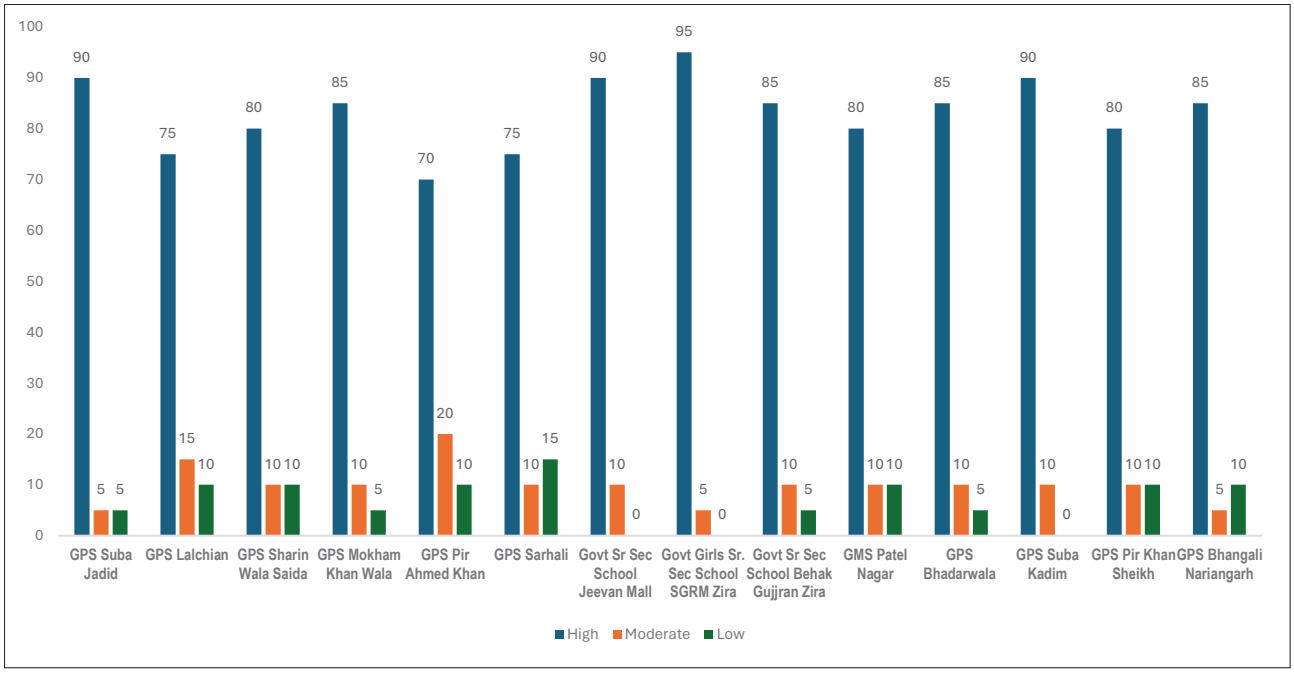
In a survey conducted by the team, 20 students each from 13 government schools and 19 students from GPS Suba Jadid school provided responses. Most beneficiaries expressed their high satisfaction with the availability of potable water (safe drinking water) in government schools resulted in increase in drinking water consumption of school children, reduction in water borne diseases and health diseases. They also informed that the units were managed regularly. The school conducts awareness programs on hygiene, sanitation and safe drinking water from time to time.

Availability of Potable water in Government Schools



The RO water plant installed at Government Sr Sec School - Jeevan Mall has produced impressive outcomes, as 90% of students have expressed their satisfaction with the availability of safe drinking water. This percentage is the highest among the 14 schools that were surveyed. In contrast, students from the other 13 schools reported satisfaction levels ranging from 65% to 85%. Prior to implementation of the project, schools water contained harmful substances like arsenic, fluoride, iron, nitrate, and hard metals. Many students used to bring water from their homes, but this was inadequate for the entire school day. The installation of RO water units in schools had significantly improved access to safe drinking water. Among the surveyed schools, GPS Pir Ahmed Khan school had (25%) expressed moderate satisfaction with the facilities.

Increase in RO water consumption levels of Schoolchildren

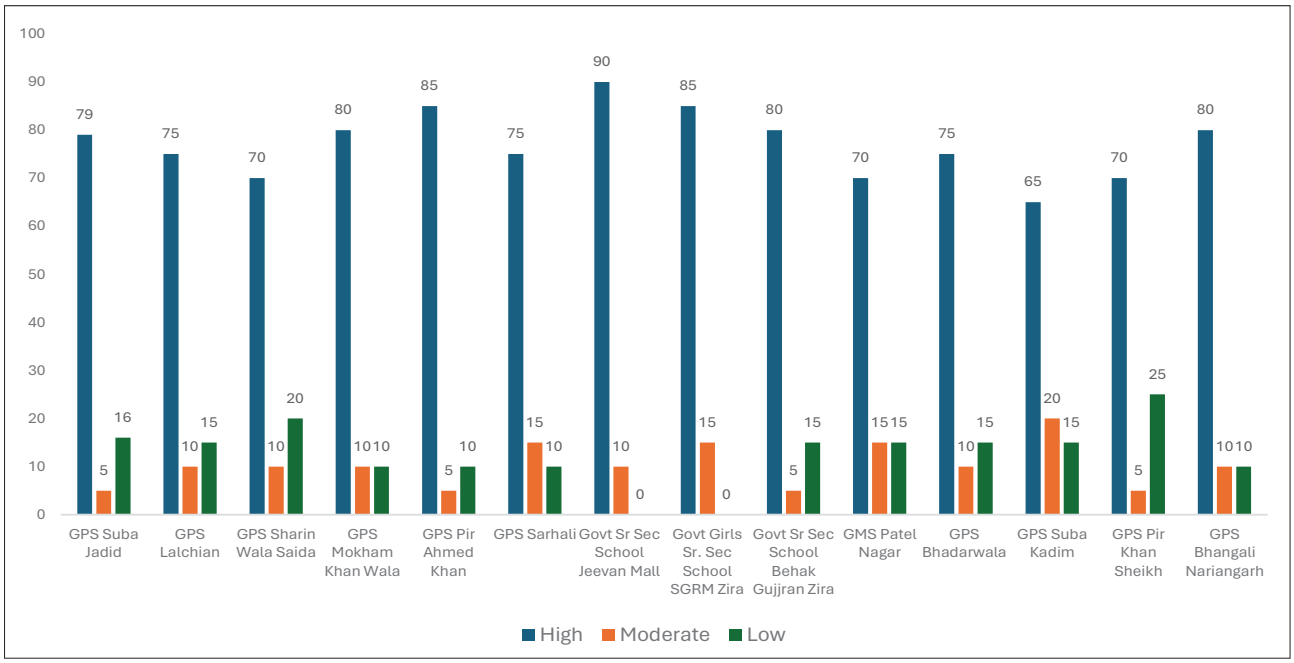


95% of students from Govt Girls Sr. Sec School SGRM Zira were highly satisfied as their water consumption levels have increased, with the highest satisfaction rate among all 14 schools. Meanwhile, students from the other 13 schools reported high satisfaction levels ranging from 70% to 90%, leading to an overall increase in water consumption levels among students due to the project. Previously, students were consuming 1.5 to 2 liters of borewell water depending on their age, resulting in poor water consumption pattern. However, after the implementation of the project, students started consuming 2.5 to 3 liters of water, leading to improved concentration, cognitive skills, and reduced dehydration levels, especially during the summer. Additionally, 20% of students from GPS Pir Ahmed Khan school expressed moderate satisfaction. They emphasized the need for an awareness campaign on safe drinking water practices to improve water consumption levels among students.

Reduction in Water Borne Diseases and Other Health Problems of School Children

The students of Govt Sr Sec School - Jeevan Mall stood out with 90% expressing their high satisfaction with the reduction in water borne diseases and other health problems, which was the highest percentage of high satisfaction levels among all 14 schools. This indicates that the efforts made by the school to improve the water quality and promote hygiene practices have

been highly effective. Compared to Govt Sr Sec School - Jeevan Mall, the high satisfaction levels in the remaining 13 schools reported ranging between 65% to 85%. This suggests that while these schools have also made progress in reducing water borne diseases and health problems, there is still room for improvement. The high satisfaction levels in Govt Sr Sec School - Jeevan Mall demonstrate the positive impact that can be achieved through effective measures. However, it is crucial for all schools to continue their efforts to ensure the well-being and satisfaction of their students.



PFC Installed RO water plants at various schools in Ferozepur District

Teachers Satisfaction Level Survey

The IPE team interacted with 28 school teachers from all 14 schools to deliberate on the installation of PFC-installed RO water plants in their schools. All teachers conveyed their utmost satisfaction with the enhancement in the availability of safe drinking water. These RO water plants employ cutting-edge filtration technology to eradicate impurities and contaminants, guaranteeing that students have access to pure and safe drinking water. This not only reduces the risk of waterborne diseases but also promotes overall health and well-being. In addition to setting up RO water plants, the project also concentrated on raising awareness among schoolchildren about the importance of safe drinking water practices. Teachers conducted awareness sessions in all schools, educating students about the potential hazards linked with unsafe water and the significance of maintaining proper hygiene practices. Teachers also use the same water for daily consumption while in school premises. Teachers also highlighted the continuous collaboration between school authorities and RO water plant contractors in maintaining the RO units ensuring uninterrupted access to clean water for students in the future. By engaging the community in the upkeep and operation of the RO water plants, this collaboration guarantees the sustainability of the project and its advantages for forthcoming generations of students.

Parents Satisfaction Levels

The team interacted with 36 parents of schoolchildren from 14 schools to gauge the PFC's project "Installation of RO water plants at government schools in Ferozepur district. It is important to mention that all the parents were aware of the provision made by PFC. They also informed that the provision has improved the health of their children and reduced school absenteeism which improved the overall performance of the child in academics. The parents also expressed their heartfelt appreciation towards PFC (Power Finance Corporation) for their generous support in installing RO water plants in the government schools of Ferozepur district.

Observations

The IPE team visited 14 schools (2% of 704) to assess their impact, maintenance and operation practices. It was observed that each school diligently fulfils their responsibilities in maintaining and operating their RO water plants. The school staff and management take their roles seriously and understand the importance of providing clean drinking water to the students.

To support the schools in their maintenance and operation efforts, they rely on the assistance of RO water plant work contract agencies. These agencies specialize in the maintenance and repair of RO water plants and provide the necessary expertise and resources to ensure the RO water plants are functioning optimally. However, this assistance comes at a substantial cost, as reported by the school headmasters. Despite the financial burden, the schools recognize the importance of investing in the proper maintenance and operation of their RO water plants. They understand that the long-term benefits of providing clean drinking water to their students far outweigh the initial costs. Therefore, they continue to work closely with the RO water plant work contract agencies to ensure maintenance and operation of the units. The following are the overall observation:

- PFC project created more awareness about the water borne diseases and other health problems and emphasized about the importance of potable drinking water among schoolchildren, resulting in improved children's academic achievements and good health.

- Awareness sessions were conducted on better drinking water and sanitation practices among schoolchildren in all 646 government schools and 52 government-aided schools where PFC installed RO water plants across the Ferozepur district, resulting in increase in students' drinking water consumption levels and better sanitation practices.
- High costs are associated with regular maintenance and operation of RO water plants as schools have budget constraints. Yet, schools are allocating substantial amount for undertaking regular maintenance of the units.
- RO drinking water is being utilized for mid-day meals preparation in all most all schools where PFC installed RO water plants in Ferozepur district.
- The school administration is providing cleanliness and tidiness of the surrounding areas of RO water plant locations in every school.

Case Studies

Case Study 1

Before the implementation of PFC's project, which involved the installation of two 250 LPH RO water plants in our school, students frequently experienced illnesses after consuming water from the school borewell through the water taps. The water from the borewell was considered unsafe for drinking, as it often contained dirt. As a result, students would often miss school due to illnesses caused by the contaminated water, which affected their performance in mid-term and internal tests. However, since the installation of the two RO water plants, each with a capacity of 250 LPH, students now drink water from the same source without worrying about contamination. This has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of students falling ill, leading to a noticeable improvement in student attendance. The RO water plants have been regularly maintained and serviced since their installation. Currently, a total of 2081 schoolchildren, including 1920 girls and 161 boys, are benefiting from this project.

Mr Rakesh Sharma
Headmaster,
Shahid Gurdas Ram Memorial Govt Girls Sr. Secondary School Zira-2

Case Study 2

The installation of the RO water plant has also had a positive impact on our school community. Additionally, the RO water plant has sparked a sense of appreciation and gratitude among students. We now understand the value of clean water and the privilege it is to have access to it. This newfound awareness has led to a greater sense of responsibility towards conserving water and using it wisely. We have become more conscious of our water usage, ensuring that we do not waste this precious resource. The impact of the RO water plant extends beyond our school walls. As students, we have become advocates for clean drinking water and have shared our experiences with friends and family. This has sparked conversations about the importance of investing in water filtration systems and the need for safe drinking water in all communities. By spreading awareness, we hope to inspire others to act and prioritize access to clean water.

The partnership between Power Finance Corporation and our school has not only provided us with a reliable source of clean drinking water but has also empowered us to take charge of our

health and well-being. The issues related to the detrimental effects of consuming contaminated water have been resolved, allowing us to concentrate on our academic pursuits and personal growth. This project has effectively changed the landscape of our school and has established a standard for other schools to prioritize the health and safety of their students.

- **Arun, Student**

IX standard, Govt Sr Sec School Jeevan Mall - Zira -2

Case Study 3

The installation of a 60 LPH RO water plant at Govt Primary School – Sarhali in Zira-1 has had a profound impact on the students' well-being. Following an educational session on the dangers of drinking contaminated water, my child shared valuable knowledge she had acquired. This not only empowers them to prioritize their health but also provides us, as parents, with essential information on how to safeguard our children's health and ensure their proper growth and development.

- **Mr Kamaljit Singh**

Parent, Govt Primary School Sarhali Zira-1

About the Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility (CCSR)

The Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility (CCSR) was set up during 2011 to promote training, research, consultancy assignments and document case studies in thrust areas of CSR. The Centre works on the existing body of knowledge, systems, structures, models, and mechanisms associated with diff erent CSR initiatives; it also provides a platform for discussing CSR guidelines and the latest developments in the fi eld. The Institute of Public Enterprise (IPE) has been part of the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), Government of India initiative on introducing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as an element of the performance matrix in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). IPE was invited to attend the meetings of the Working Group on CSR in 2007-08 and 2009-10, and was nominated by DPE as a Member of the Executive Committee on CSR in 2011 to develop, design, and implement courses for CPSEs. Recognizing the importance of the subject and also the realization that there is a dearth of experts in this emerging fi eld, it was decided that IPE could play a major role in research, development, and advocacy of CSR. This idea led to the establishment of the Center for Corporate Social Responsibility in 2011 at IPE.

The main objectives of the center:

- To conduct interdisciplinary and collaborative research and document case studies in thrust areas of CSR dealing with contemporary issues and challenges.
- To integrate the existing body of knowledge, systems, structures, models, and mechanisms associated with diff erent CSR initiatives by interfacing with industry and academia.
- To disseminate information about the latest happenings in the CSR fi eld to the people engaged in policy making, policy analysis, policy research, practitioners, and other stakeholders.

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About Institute of Public Enterprise (IPE)

The Institute of Public Enterprise (IPE) was established in 1964 as an autonomous non-profit society. IPE is a premier AICTE approved management Institute focusing on transforming students into leaders of tomorrow in organizations and society. IPE's key objectives include management education, research, consultancy, and training. In 1995, the Institute launched its first two year full-time Post Graduate Diploma in Management (PGDM) programme to provide skilled human resources to meet the requirements of industry.

Keeping in view the market demand, the Institute also launched sector specific PGDM programs in the areas of Marketing, Banking Insurance and Financial Services, International Business and Human Resource Management. IPE's engagement with long-term management education has received wide appreciation from the industry, government, and social sector enterprises. The Institute continuously endeavours to update the content and teaching methodology of its courses based on feedback from the end-users, ensuring the quality, relevance, and utility of all its programs and courses.

IPE is consistently ranked among the leading B-Schools in India in most well-known ranking surveys. IPE has also been awarded a premium accreditation label of the SAARC region, 'The South Asian Quality Assurance System' (SAQS). Over the years IPE has won several awards and honours for its academic & research excellence.

IPE has a very successful track record of running MDPs over a long period of time. IPE also has a strong Research and Consultancy division, which provide consulting services and undertakes research projects for various national organizations. The Institute has been recognized as a 'Center of Excellence' by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), Ministry of Education, and Government of India.

The Governance of the Institute is overseen through a Board of Governors composed of eminent policy makers, academicians, and CEOs of public and private sector enterprises.

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